

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for the secure installation and use of an information system having a plurality of nodes, where said plurality of nodes include at least one information appliance and at least one security console, comprising:

at least one data-carrying object containing security-related data; and

at least one object receptacle that comprises a portion of at least one of said nodes, a data-carrying object being inserted into said receptacle for reading-out the security-related data for indicating to the information system a desired security configuration.

2. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying object stores the security-related data in a form that can be read-out by one of an electrical sensor, an optical sensor, or a magnetic sensor.

3. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying object remains inserted in said receptacle for as long as the security configuration is desired to be in effect.

4. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying object is temporarily made readable by said receptacle in order to initiate said security configuration.

5. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein an information appliance has associated therewith at least one corresponding data-carrying object for inserting into said receptacle, wherein said receptacle has an output coupled

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to said security console in an information system where the information appliance is intended to be used for indicating that the information appliance is one of a trusted information appliance or an untrusted information appliance.

6. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein an information appliance is given access to information system resources, including information, by inserting a data-carrying object associated with said security console into said receptacle, said receptacle having an output that is coupled to said information appliance.

7. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein each of said information appliance and said security console have associated therewith at least one corresponding data-carrying object, wherein a first receptacle has an output coupled to said security console in an information system where the information appliance is intended to be used for indicating, from security-related data contained on said data-carrying object associated with said information appliance, that the information appliance is one that is authorized to fulfil and originate requests for information system resources, and wherein a second receptacle has an output coupled to said information appliance for indicating, from security-related data contained on said data-carrying object associated with said security console, that said security console is authorized to fulfil and originate requests for information appliance resources, including information.

8. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying objects are obtained as a pair, wherein a first receptacle has an output coupled to said security console in an information system where the information appliance is intended to be used for indicating, from security-related

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10. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying objects are obtained as a pair, and wherein data-carrying objects in any given pair are the same shape, and no two data-carrying objects not in the same pair are the same shape.

11. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying objects are obtained as a pair, and wherein data-carrying objects in any given pair are imprinted with a same visible identification information, and no two data-carrying objects not in the same pair are imprinted with the same visible identification information.

12. Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said data-carrying objects are obtained as a pair, and wherein data-carrying objects in any given pair are fashioned so as to mechanically join together, and no two data-carrying objects not in the same pair will not or are unlikely to mechanically join together.

19. Apparatus as in claim 18, wherein said

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25. Apparatus as in claim 24, further comprising a holder for holding the computer-readable data portion such that both the computer-readable data portion and the image are accessible.

26. A method for the secure installation and use of an information system having a plurality of nodes, where said plurality of nodes include at least one information appliance and at least one security console, comprising steps of:

providing at least one data-carrying object containing security-related data; and

inserting the data-carrying object into at least one object receptacle that comprises a portion of at least one of the nodes, the data-carrying object being inserted into the receptacle for reading-out the security-related data for indicating to the information system a desired security configuration.

27. A method as in claim 26, wherein the data-carrying object stores the security-related data in a form that can be read-out by one of an electrical sensor, an optical sensor, or a magnetic sensor.

28. A method as in claim 26, wherein the data-carrying object either remains inserted in the receptacle during the operation of the information system, or is temporarily inserted in or otherwise made readable by the receptacle either before or during the operation of the information system.

29. A method as in claim 26, wherein an information appliance has associated therewith at least one corresponding data-carrying object for inserting into the receptacle, wherein the receptacle has an output coupled to the security console in an information system where the information appliance is intended to be used for indicating that the information appliance is one of a trusted information appliance or an untrusted information

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1. 1. The first
 2. 2. The second
 3. 3. The third
 4. 4. The fourth
 5. 5. The fifth
 6. 6. The sixth
 7. 7. The seventh
 8. 8. The eighth
 9. 9. The ninth
 10. 10. The tenth
 11. 11. The eleventh
 12. 12. The twelfth
 13. 13. The thirteenth
 14. 14. The fourteenth
 15. 15. The fifteenth
 16. 16. The sixteenth
 17. 17. The seventeenth
 18. 18. The eighteenth
 19. 19. The nineteenth
 20. 20. The twentieth
 21. 21. The twenty-first
 22. 22. The twenty-second
 23. 23. The twenty-third
 24. 24. The twenty-fourth
 25. 25. The twenty-fifth
 26. 26. The twenty-sixth
 27. 27. The twenty-seventh
 28. 28. The twenty-eighth
 29. 29. The twenty-ninth
 30. 30. The thirtieth
 31. 31. The thirty-first
 32. 32. The thirty-second
 33. 33. The thirty-third
 34. 34. The thirty-fourth
 35. 35. The thirty-fifth
 36. 36. The thirty-sixth
 37. 37. The thirty-seventh
 38. 38. The thirty-eighth
 39. 39. The thirty-ninth
 40. 40. The fortieth
 41. 41. The forty-first
 42. 42. The forty-second
 43. 43. The forty-third
 44. 44. The forty-fourth
 45. 45. The forty-fifth
 46. 46. The forty-sixth
 47. 47. The forty-seventh
 48. 48. The forty-eighth
 49. 49. The forty-ninth
 50. 50. The fiftieth
 51. 51. The fifty-first
 52. 52. The fifty-second
 53. 53. The fifty-third
 54. 54. The fifty-fourth
 55. 55. The fifty-fifth
 56. 56. The fifty-sixth
 57. 57. The fifty-seventh
 58. 58. The fifty-eighth
 59. 59. The fifty-ninth
 60. 60. The sixtieth
 61. 61. The sixty-first
 62. 62. The sixty-second
 63. 63. The sixty-third
 64. 64. The sixty-fourth
 65. 65. The sixty-fifth
 66. 66. The sixty-sixth
 67. 67. The sixty-seventh
 68. 68. The sixty-eighth
 69. 69. The sixty-ninth
 70. 70. The seventieth
 71. 71. The seventy-first
 72. 72. The seventy-second
 73. 73. The seventy-third
 74. 74. The seventy-fourth
 75. 75. The seventy-fifth
 76. 76. The seventy-sixth
 77. 77. The seventy-seventh
 78. 78. The seventy-eighth
 79. 79. The seventy-ninth
 80. 80. The eightieth
 81. 81. The eighty-first
 82. 82. The eighty-second
 83. 83. The eighty-third
 84. 84. The eighty-fourth
 85. 85. The eighty-fifth
 86. 86. The eighty-sixth
 87. 87. The eighty-seventh
 88. 88. The eighty-eighth
 89. 89. The eighty-ninth
 90. 90. The ninetieth
 91. 91. The ninety-first
 92. 92. The ninety-second
 93. 93. The ninety-third
 94. 94. The ninety-fourth
 95. 95. The ninety-fifth
 96. 96. The ninety-sixth
 97. 97. The ninety-seventh
 98. 98. The ninety-eighth
 99. 99. The ninety-ninth
 100. 100. The hundredth

31. A method as in claim 26, wherein each of the information appliance and the security console have associated therewith at least one corresponding data-carrying object, wherein a first receptacle has an output coupled to the security console in an information system where the information appliance is intended to be used for indicating, from security-related data contained on the data-carrying object associated with the information appliance, that the information appliance is one that is authorized to fulfil and originate requests for information system resources, and wherein a second receptacle has an output coupled to the information appliance for indicating, from security-related data contained on the data-carrying object associated with the security console, that the security console is authorized to fulfil and originate requests for information appliance resources, including information.

32. A method as in claim 26, wherein the data-carrying objects are provided as a pair, wherein a first receptacle has an output coupled to the security console in an information system where the information appliance is intended to be used for indicating, from security-related data contained on a first one of the pair of data-carrying objects, that the information appliance is one that is authorized to fulfil and originate requests for information system resources, and wherein a second receptacle has an

output coupled to the information appliance for indicating, from security-related data contained on a second one of the pair of data-carrying objects, that the security console is authorized to fulfil and originate requests for information appliance resources, including information.

33. A method as in claim 26, wherein there are a plurality of the receptacles, and wherein an insertion of a data-carrying object into a first receptacle indicates different security-related information than inserting the data-carrying object into a second receptacle.

34. A method as in claim 26, wherein the data-carrying objects are provided as a pair, and wherein data-carrying objects in any given pair are the same shape, and no two data-carrying objects not in the same pair are the same shape.

35. A method as in claim 26, wherein the data-carrying objects are provided as a pair, and wherein data-carrying objects in any given pair are imprinted with a same visible identification information; and no two data-carrying objects not in the same pair are imprinted with the same visible identification information.

36. A method as in claim 26, wherein the data-carrying objects are provided as a pair, and wherein data-carrying objects in any given pair are fashioned so as to mechanically join together, and no two data-carrying objects not in the same pair will not or are unlikely to mechanically join together.

37. A method as in claim 26, wherein data-carrying objects are obtained in groups of at least three, and where access to a resource, including information, is obtained by providing one subset of data-carrying objects from a group

to a receptacle associated with a requestor of the resource, and a disjoint set of data-carrying objects from the same group is provided to the security console.

38. A method as in claim 37, wherein identifications of all individual data-carrying objects in the group can be ascertained by viewing the security console, even if some subset of the data-carrying objects are provided to a receptacle associated with a requestor of the resource.

39. A method as in claim 37, wherein a utilization of different disjoint subsets of the data-carrying objects in a group indicates different levels of trust to be granted to the requestor with respect to the resource.

40. A method as in claim 37, wherein a utilization of different disjoint subsets of the data-carrying objects in a group indicates different levels of authorization to be granted to the requestor with respect to the resource.

41. A method as in claim 37, wherein data-carrying objects in a particular group mechanically join together to form an assemblage, where the assemblage is adapted to be attached to a device through a single connection.

42. A method as in claim 26, in which access to the resource is denied unless every data-carrying object of the group is inserted into a receptacle.

43. A method as in claim 26, and further comprising a step of adding a newly-obtained information appliance to a group of authorized information appliances, on behalf of a principal, by inserting a data-carrying object representing the principal to a receptacle of the information appliance.

44. A method as in claim 43, wherein the data-carrying

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51. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable

medium for providing for the secure installation and use of an information system having a plurality of nodes, where said plurality of nodes include at least one information appliance and at least one security console, comprising code segments responsive to at least one data-carrying object containing security-related data that is inserted into at least one object receptacle that comprises a portion of at least one of the nodes, for reading-out the security-related data for determining, for the information system, a desired security configuration.

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